

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

August 11, 2015

Congress created the Home Visiting Program to support voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services for at-risk pregnant women and parents with young children. According to the Federal Administration for Children and Families, the Home Visiting Program builds upon decades of research showing that home visits by a nurse, social worker, early childhood educator, or other trained professional during pregnancy and in the first years of life improve the lives of young children and families by preventing child abuse and neglect, supporting positive parenting, improving maternal and child health, and promoting child development and school readiness. Research also shows that evidence-based home visiting programs can provide a positive return on investment to society through savings in public expenditures on emergency room visits, child protective services, and special education.

In 2000, Los Angeles County implemented the Nurse-Family Partnership Program. This evidence-based model program uses specially trained public health nurses who provide services to high-risk, low-income youth and women who are pregnant for the first time and who are living in poverty.

MOTION

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The Nurse-Family Partnership Program provides free, voluntary services in which families are followed and supported using an intensive home-visiting schedule until the first-born child reaches 2 years of age. This highly successful program is shown to help prevent poor birth outcomes, to improve infant health and safety, to reduce child abuse and child injuries, to increase intervals between subsequent pregnancies, and to influence families to get and stay on a pathway to self-sufficiency.

AB 50 (Mullin) would require the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in consultation with stakeholders, to develop a plan to ensure that evidence-based home visiting programs are offered, on a voluntary basis, to Medi-Cal-eligible pregnant and parenting women, expectant fathers, and parents and caregivers of children from prenatal to five years of age. The bill would also require DHCS to consider establishing Medi-Cal coverage for evidence-based home visiting services and to identify funding sources outside of the State General Fund including Federal, local, or private funds. This measure includes reporting requirements on the plan's effectiveness, improved health outcomes and cost savings.

AB 50 would help to expand the County's successful Nurse-Family Partnership Program or other evidence-based home visiting programs to improve health, social and economic outcomes for at-risk Medi-Cal-eligible families and their young children.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer and the Sacramento advocates to support AB 50.